CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a processor;

a memory accessed by and operated on by the processor;

at least one display object having metadata tags describing two or more collections of data items, each collection of data items being a differing application, wherein the at least one display object is a graphical representation of the two or more collections of data items comprising the differing applications;

a control component configured to selectively animate a presentation of the collections of data items based in part on the metadata tags and detected user activities, the metadata tags further describing a history of interaction between a user and the collection of data items;

global controls for collecting unrelated data items in the collections of data items and subsequently preview the collections of data items; and

one or more controller inputs to control the presentation of the collections of data items, wherein the [[a]] user utilizes the one or more controller inputs to navigate the collections of data items via selecting a collection, wherein selection of the collection changes the order of the collections of data items and moves the selected collection to the front of the collections of data items allowing the user to navigate the rest of the collections of data items in a finer-grained manner starting at the selected collection.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller inputs include at least one of a mouse cursor control, a mouse wheel control, a voice command, an eye-gaze control, and a mechanical control to control the presentation of items.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the collections of data items further comprise a top item displayed as a thumbnail preview ~~or an expanded size preview~~.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a control to provide a transitional animation employed to visually link movement of an axial controller with a change in a displayed icon.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a currently selected preview image, the currently selected preview image integrated with a collection icon as a reminder of collection contents.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the control component further comprises at least one of an object locator, a command detector, a content analyzer, and a formatter to selectively animate the presentation of the items.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a graphical user interface to selectively animate the presentation of the collections of data items.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, the graphical user interface further comprising a set of preference controls configured to change, by type of item, preview visualizations and access behaviors associated therewith.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the collections of data items include one or more subcomponents configured to be previewed, selected, or displayed.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the items can be previewed in two dimensional or three dimensional form.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising controls to scale the collections of data items to be previewed.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a control to determine a rough position of the collection in the collection of items.

15. (Original) A computer readable medium having computer readable instructions stored thereon for implementing at least one of the display object and the control component of claim 1.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform steps comprising:

displaying a set of information items as a stack<u>, the displaying based on metadata tags describing a history of interaction between a user and the set of information items</u>, each set of information items being a differing application, wherein the stack is a graphical representation of the set of information comprising the differing applications;

selecting the set of information items to find an approximate position of an item in the set of information items by moving a mouse cursor over the item, wherein the selection of the item changes the order of the set and moves the selected item to the front of the set;

allowing <u>the</u> [[a]] user to navigate the rest of the set in a finer-grained manner starting at the selected item;

detecting a value with respect to the set of information items;

previewing the information items based upon incrementing or decrementing the value to define a currently selected information item; and

upon moving the mouse cursor from the set of information items, integrating the currently selected information item with the remaining information items such that the selected information item is left atop the stack.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform steps comprising:

selecting a stack of display items with a first control for display, the displaying based on metadata tags describing a history of interaction between a user and the stack of display items, the display items being differing applications, wherein the stack is a graphical representation of the display items comprising the differing applications;

cycling the stack of display items with a second control in order to provide an information preview with respect to at least one of the items;

a third control for gathering dissimilar items in a set of items to consequently preview the items;

employing the first control to find an approximate position of an item in the stack of display items, wherein selection of the item changes the order of the stack of display items and moves the selected item to the front of the stack; and

allowing the [[a]] user to navigate the rest of the stack in a finer-grained manner starting at the selected item.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage media of claim 17, further comprising the steps of providing a transitional display for at least two display items in accordance with the second control.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage media of claim 17, the information preview is associated with at least one of a display configured to be about the same size as the stack, smaller than the stack, and larger than the stack.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage media of claim 17, wherein the first control is associated with a cursor which is controlled by a mouse and wherein the second control is associated with a wheel of the mouse.

22. (Currently Amended) A computing device, comprising:

a processor;

a memory accessed by and operated on by the processor;

a graphical user interface comprising:

a display object for displaying a group of pages, the displaying based on metadata tags describing a history of interaction between a user and the group of pages, the pages representing differing applications, wherein the display object is a graphical representation of the group of pages comprising the differing applications;

a tag associated with each member page from the group of pages;

a cursor to select the group of pages;

an axial controller to cycle the group of pages using the associated tags;

global controls for accumulating dissimilar items in a set of items to later preview the items; and

one or more controller inputs to control the presentation of the group of pages, wherein the [[a]] user utilizes the one or more controller inputs to navigate the group of pages via selecting a member page in the group, selection of the member page changes the order of the group and moves the selected member page to the front of the group allowing the user to navigate the rest of the group in a finer-grained manner starting at the selected member page.

23. (Previously Presented) The computing device of claim 22, wherein the axial controller causes a transition animation between pages when cycling the group of pages.